



Labor News Bits

ATTN: Business Managers, Presidents & Government Representatives

One-Stop Career Center opens in Hudson County

On January 10, Hudson County's career development and job training center opened for business.

Thomas D. Carver, acting commissioner for the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, was joined at the career center in Union City by local and county officials.

"Today is a great day for Hudson County because we're investing in the right things: improving the skills of our working men and women," said Carver. "Our goal is to create the most highly trained, highly skilled, and best educated workforce in the nation. The opening of this facility is further proof that goal is becoming a reality."

LWD staff will work with local partners including the Workforce Investment Board, the Hudson County Department of Family Services, and the Hudson County School of Technology at the new facility located at 4800 Broadway in Union City.

The center will also be home to one of 18 Business Resource Centers (BRCs) opening across the state in the coming months. BRCs provide a single location

where employers, workers, and those interested in information about the job market can get the help they need.

"It is vitally important that Hudson County residents have a single location they can turn to for assistance," Carver said. "Whether it's a worker looking to update skills or a business looking for qualified employees, this one-stop career center will bring all the different components of the labor market together in a single location to create the type of teamwork that promotes economic growth."

Unemployment rate below national average for 20 consecutive months

Preliminary estimates from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development's monthly survey of employers indicates a 0.2 percent drop in unemployment from November to 4.2 percent in December. The national unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.4 percent. The New Jersey rate is 1.4 percentage points below last year's level.

"Our continued employment growth and an unemployment rate below the national average is a good sign for all the hard-working people of our state,"

said Thomas D. Carver, acting commissioner for the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. "Because of our commitment to workforce development and our efforts to provide support for both employers and workers, we remain confident that New Jersey will continue to be successful."

Acting Governor Richard J. Codey said, "I am pleased to see New Jersey end 2004 on such a positive note. This administration will continue to do all it can to ensure business in New Jersey thrives and our workers stay employed."

The number of persons working on nonfarm payrolls increased by 3,800 from November to a new record of 4,075,100 in December.

The originally reported improvement of 11,000 jobs from October to November was revised upward by 1,600 to 4,071,300, resulting in an over-the-month gain of 12,600. Since December 2003, employment has expanded by 75,900.

Richard J. Codey

Acting Governor

Thomas D. Carver

Commissioner

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